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28 April 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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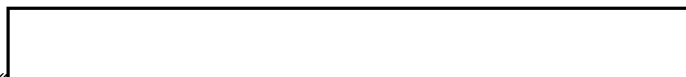


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*Dominican Republic: (Information as of 0430 EDT) The rebel government has collapsed, but the loyalist military officers whose forces entered the capital yesterday still face a last ditch resistance effort by extremists.

Resistance now seems restricted to Communist and other extremist elements who had been armed by rebel leaders. [They have a number of strong points in various parts of the city and machinegun emplacements on rooftops. Late last night heavy gunfire was still being heard in the downtown area and the US Embassy expects street fighting to last several days.]

Attempts yesterday by rebel military and civilian leaders to initiate negotiations with the loyalist officers failed. Jose Molina Urena, the rebel's provisional president, has taken asylum in the Colombian embassy along with other members of his government. The principal rebel military officers are also understood to be in asylum.

Army General Wessin, air force chief de los Santos, and navy chief Rivera Caminero have formed a joint operations staff, which is presently the closest thing to a government in the country. They are likely today to seek to organize a military junta representative of various military factions, but without any concessions to the rebellious military officers.

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*France: No new policy tack emerged from President De Gaulle's TV address yesterday, but an unwonted note of self-defense was apparent in his insistent vindication of national independence.

His enumeration of the various political, economic and technical links France has with many nations was probably deliberately done with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to Paris in mind. De Gaulle's intention was to underline that the announcement yesterday of French-Soviet agreement to press for an international conference on Cambodia did not imply a reversal of alliances for Paris.

This theme was also meant to answer the criticism that he has isolated France by weakening its ties to NATO. He seems to have felt the need to reassure the nation that he is neither Machiavellian nor inclined to act purely out of malice toward the United States.

De Gaulle's announced intention to save France from being "literally dissolved in a so-called integrated Europe" was signalled last week when a close rein was placed on cabinet ministers dealing with the European Common Market. He seems to have realized recently that successive advances toward economic integration could eventually restrict his freedom of action in political matters.

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India-Pakistan: The Rann of Kutch is quiet except for sporadic artillery dueling at long range.

Troops on both sides appear to have disengaged after Monday's heavy fighting.

The British High Commissioners in New Delhi and Karachi are making a strong effort to calm tempers, but are finding the Pakistanis less receptive to their initiative than the Indians. [In addition, the British Commonwealth Relations Secretary may be sent to India from Malaysia to discuss the situation, and Gordon Walker, who is returning from Southeast Asia, is to arrive on Saturday.]

In a conversation with the US ambassador on 27 April, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aziz Ahmad admitted that US-supplied tanks which Pakistan moved to the Kutch area last week have been used in the recent fighting, as India has charged.

*The use of tanks, while probable, cannot be regarded as positively confirmed, however, as a result of a subsequent denial by a senior foreign ministry official who characterized Aziz Ahmad's remarks as an assumption rather than a statement of fact.

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Burma: [General Ne Win is attempting forcibly to suppress the growing Buddhist opposition to his regime.]

[Government forces yesterday raided monasteries in Mandalay, the center of Buddhist opposition, and arrested at least 16 leading monks. Fourteen were arrested in Rangoon.]

[Militant Buddhists have long charged that Ne Win's socialist government is a "Communist" regime. Their opposition has been rising sharply recently in reaction against the government's pressure to tighten monastic discipline and curb antigovernment agitation.]

[Ne Win may be playing into the monks' hands. For some weeks monks in the Mandalay region have been attacking local headquarters of the government party, evidently hoping to provoke the authorities into taking repressive measures. The arrests will give the Buddhists a cause around which to rally popular support. Larger antigovernment demonstrations and increased agitation are now likely.]

[Although there is little immediate prospect that the Buddhists alone can seriously endanger the government, Ne Win may be forced into further action against them.]

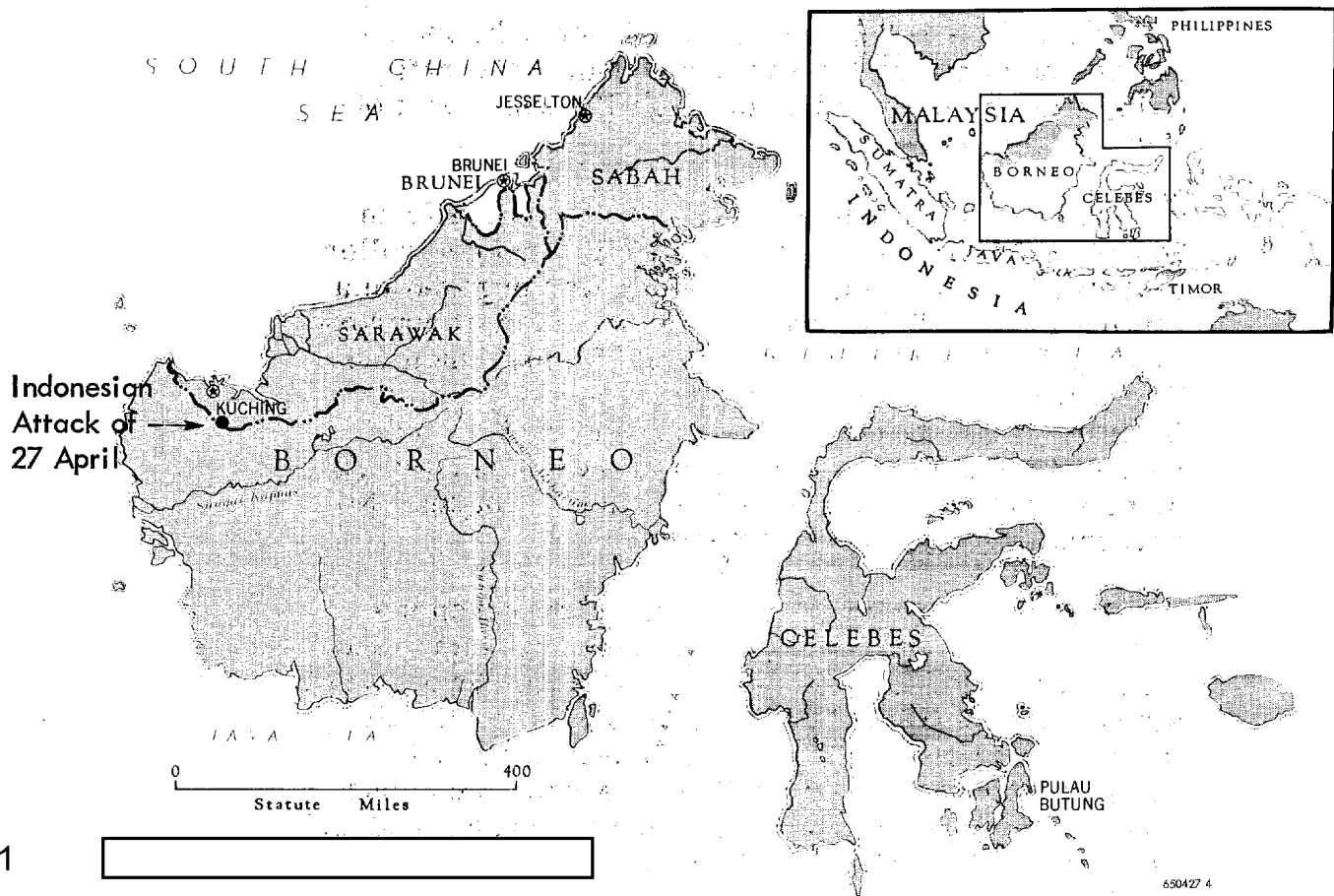
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NOTE

Indonesia-Malaysia: An attack yesterday on a British border post in western Sarawak by an estimated 100 Indonesian troops was repulsed by artillery fire. This action is the largest Indonesian military operation against Malaysian Borneo since last summer. It may signal a general step-up in fighting along the Borneo border. Deployment of Indonesian reinforcements in the border area, under way since December, is largely complete and reconnoitering of British and Malaysian border positions in Sarawak and Sabah has increased.

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